

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 (canceled) ✓

Claim 8 (previously presented): In a financial transaction system capable of using at least one limited use credit card number that is deactivated upon a use-triggered condition which occurs subsequent to assignment of the at least one credit card number, a method of conducting a transaction involving the limited use credit card comprising the steps of:

initiating a transaction by a customer presenting a limited use credit card number to a merchant;

routing said limited use credit card number to a central processing system; and

determining whether said limited use credit card number has been deactivated because at least one use-triggered condition has been satisfied.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the limited credit card number is linked to an organization selected from a group consisting of: a utility, a public network service provider, a telephone company, a bank account, a prepaid account and a credit card issuer.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, further comprising transmitting a signal to the organization which is linked to the limited use credit card number, the signal including original transaction details if the limited use credit card number has not been deactivated;

performing a credit check on the user to determine whether authorization can be obtained against the limited use credit card number; and

transmitting a signal to the merchant with the results of the authorization determining step for the limited use credit card number.

Claim 11 (canceled) /

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 8, further comprising: transmitting a signal to the merchant denying authorization of the card number if the credit card number has been deactivated.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the limited use credit card number is associated with a master credit card number, further comprising:

transmitting a signal to a master credit card issuing facility which issued the limited use credit card number, the signal including original transaction details but with the limited use credit card number remapped to be a master credit card number if the limited use credit card number has not been deactivated;

determining whether authorization can be obtained against the master credit card number;

remapping the results of the authorization determining step to the limited use credit card number for transmission to the merchant; and

transmitting a signal to the merchant with the results of the authorization determining step for the limited use credit card number.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, further comprising authorizing the transaction based on the results of the authorization determining step.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13, further comprising declining authorization of the transaction based on the results of the authorization determining step.

Claim 16 (original): In a financial transaction system capable of using at least one

limited use credit card number which is deactivated upon a use-triggered condition which occurs subsequent to assignment of the at least one credit card number and which is associated the master account number of a customer, a method of conducting a settlement transaction comprising the steps of:

transmitting a signal from a merchant to a central processing system according to leading digits of the limited use card number;

remapping the limited use credit card number with the master credit card number;

transmitting said remapped master credit card number to issuer processing facility which issued the master credit card number;

settling the transaction by payment, if appropriate, to the central processing system;

remapping the master credit card number back to the limited use credit card number;

and

transmitting the limited use credit card number and payment information, if appropriate, to the merchant.

Claims 17-28 (canceled) /